

Counter-Spy Reaps Notoriety, Threats

By Ernest Volkman
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Washington—The anonymous man phoning the police was explicit: "Those Commie ——— are going to get it, we're going to drive past their little nest and we got two machine guns that'll do the job. Counter-Spy'll be dead in an hour."

The police immediately deployed around a seven-story office building on Dupont Circle here. After a few hours, when it appeared that the machine-gunners weren't for real, the police guard was withdrawn.

The incident was routinely logged by the police in a lengthening list of death threats against the occupants of a small office in Suite 403 of that office building, where a staff of seven people produces, among other things, a once-obscure magazine called Counter-Spy. The magazine apparently is making some bitter enemies.

"We're not going to let this death threat stuff bother us, though, because our task is too important," said Winslow Peck, co-editor of the magazine. "If you ask me if we're afraid, I tell you yes, we are."

What Counter-Spy has been doing is

publishing the names of Central Intelligence Agency personnel operating under diplomatic cover in U.S. embassies throughout the world. The quarterly magazine published 97 names in its spring, 1975, issue, several more in its current issue and is scheduled to print the names of CIA agents in Angola and Portugal in the next issue, which will come out later this month.

Among the names Counter-Spy published in the spring issue was that of Richard Welch, CIA station chief in Lima, Peru. However, Welch had been transferred months before to Athens, Greece. A left-wing Greek publication then published his name, and last month, Welch was murdered by left-wing terrorists outside his Athens home.

The murder of Welch gave Counter-Spy international notoriety. "We're not out to harm anybody personally," Peck says. "We were very sorry to see Welch get murdered, but let's face facts: Everybody in Athens knew who he was, and the CIA had him living in the same house that CIA station chiefs have been using for 20 years. The CIA is very much despised in Athens because of their involvement with the 1967 military coup."

Perhaps. But, to Welch's superiors,

Counter-Spy's efforts amounted to murder. And even before Welch was shot, CIA director William Colby had called the people who run the magazine "paranoid and irresponsible."

The origins of Counter-Spy go back to February, 1973, when writer Norman Mailer, at his 50th birthday party, announced formation of The Fifth Estate, which he described as a "democratic secret police" that would uncover covert CIA and FBI operations, particularly those aimed against domestic dissidents. The idea had first been proposed by writer Nat Hentoff.

Using money raised from the 500 guests at the party, Mailer founded the Fifth Estate Corp., which led later that year to creation of the Intelligence Documentation Center in Washington. That center, a small research library, combs publications, collecting clues on CIA operations. It also led to the formation of the Fifth Estate National Security Education Project, which sponsors seminars and lectures on national security issues.

Counter-Spy grew out of that effort, which was financed by a \$50,000 "seed money" grant from the Stern Foundation, plus contributions. The magazine

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